



T.H.
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Attorney Docket No. MP/157

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : PALACIOS et al.
Appl. No. : 10/026,108
Filed : December 20, 2001
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
APPLYING REINFORCEMENT
MATERIAL TO A SURGICAL STAPLER

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 18, 2002.

Melanie Williams
Melanee Williams

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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NOV 27 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Johns

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Date: 11/18/02



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Melanie Williams
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
2. Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO 1449 (1 page)
3. References Cited (7 documents)

Respectfully submitted,

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